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Ronald S. Berman

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March 19, 1976

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

As I believe you have been informed, I am opposed to the reappointment of Dr. Ronald S. Berman as Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities. I believe his performance lacks the quality of excellence which I consider essential to a continuance in office.

As examples of the type of leadership urgently needed for this important program, I would suggest the proven ability of individuals such as Dr. Robert Mayer Lumiansky or Dr. Martin Meyerson. Dr. Lumiansky was an original member of the National Council on the Humanities and serves as President of the American Council of Learned Societies. Dr. Meyerson has achieved great distinction in the humanities and serves as President of the University of Pennsylvania.

I would recommend that serious consideration be given to individuals of this stature and caliber. Such individuals would be able to provide the Humanities Endowment with the broad-based wisdom and understanding required to achieve the goals which, as a founder of this program, I am convinced are of vital importance to its continued progress.

With warmest personal regards, I am

Ever sincerely,

Claiborne Pell
Chairman, Senate Special
Subcommittee on Arts
and Humanities

LLB/CP:cc

Martin Meyerson

Dr. Meyerson has been president of the University of Pennsylvania since 1970.

He has broad experience as an educator and as an expert in urban and environmental studies.

This experience includes: Williams professor of City Planning and Urban Research, Harvard University (1975-1963); Director Joint Center for Urban Studies, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard (1959-1963); President State University of New York at Buffalo (1966-1970); international experience with United Nations missions to Japan, Indonesia, Yugoslavia; service on White House task forces (1960-1969).

Author and editor of publications dealing with environmental concerns -- in keeping with the mandate in the Humanities section of the enabling legislation stressing "particular attention to the relevance of the humanities to the current conditions of national life."

Address: 2016 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Robert Mayer Lumiansky

President of American Council of Learned Societies, perhaps the most important constituency in the Humanities. Along with the United Chapters of Phi Beta Kappa and the Council of Graduate Schools in the United States, the ACLS was a prime mover of support for the initial Arts and Humanities legislation.

Dr. Luminansky was an original member of the National Council on the Humanities.

He has wide experience, over 35 years, in Humanities both as teacher and administrator.

His experience includes: Dean of Graduate School (1954-1963) and provost (1960-1963) of Tulane University; professor and chairman of English Department, and Avalon professor of humanities at the University of Pennsylvania (1965-1974); Chairman of the Board of the ACLS (1959-1974); and Vice President of the Modern Language Association of America.

He is author and editor of numerous scholarly works and publications -- specialist in early English literature.

Distinguished World War II record. Decorated with Bronze Star and Croix de Guerre.

Address: c/o American Council of Learned Societies, 345 E. 46th Street, New York City.